

Message Text

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72

ACTION EB-07

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 EA-10 ISO-00 CAB-05 CIAE-00 COME-00

DODE-00 DOTE-00 INR-07 NSAE-00 FAA-00 PA-02 PRS-01

USIA-15 /060 W

----- 069050

R 230639Z MAY 75

FM AMCONSUL MELBOURNE

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2769

INFO AMEMBASSY CANBERRA

AMCONSUL SYDNEY

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY PARIS

UNCLAS MELBOURNE 0649

E O 11652 NA

TAGS EAIR, OVIP, AS

SUBJ: VISIT TO MELBOURNE OF FORMER CAB CHAIRMAN SECOR D. BROWNE

1. DURING HIS VISIT TO MELBOURNE FROM MAY 19 TO 23, SECOR D. BROWNE, ACCOMPANIED BY HIS WIFE, MET WITH THE MOST IMPORTANT FIGURES IN THE AUSTRALIAN CIVIL AIR WORLD, BOTH GOVERNMENTAL AND PRIVATE, IN A SERIES OF MEETINGS, LUNCHESES AND DINNERS. CHARLES C. HALTON, PERMANENT SECRETARY OF THE DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION, CAME FROM CANBERRA ESPECIALLY TO ATTEND MY DINNER ON MAY 21, WHICH WAS ALSO ATTENDED BY THE HEADS OF ALL OF THE MOST IMPORTANT AIRLINES, AIRCRAFT AND AIR FRAME COMPANIES FROM ALL OVER AUSTRALIA. HALTON ALSO SET ASIDE TWO HOURS ON MAY 22 FOR PRIVATE CONVERSATION WITH BROWNE, AS WELL AS WITH HIS SENIOR STAFF AT THE AIR TRANSPORT GROUP HEADQUARTERS HERE.

2. BROWNE ALSO WAS THE MAIN SPEAKER AT AN AMERICAN CHAMBER OF COMMERCE LUNCHEON ON MAY 21 WHICH HAD EXTENSIVE MEDIA COVERAGE. ONE OF HIS MOST IMPORTANT POINTS WAS THAT HE ANTICIPATED THAT THE TRIAL FLIGHTS OF THE CONCORDE, PLANNED FOR JULY AND AUGUST 1975, WILL LEAD TO THE INSTITUTION

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OF REGULAR SCHEDULED LONDON/MELBOURNE SERVICE, WHICH WILL BE

A STIMULUS FOR MAJOR EXECUTIVE HEADQUARTERS TO SHIFT FROM OTHER AREAS IN AUSTRALIA TO MELBOURNE. HIS SPEECH WAS REPORTED PROMINENTLY IN THE MORNING PAPERS THE NEXT DAY.

3. MR BROWNE WAS ALSO INTERVIEWED BY RADIO PERSONALITY ORMSBY WILKINS, WHOSE MORNING PROGRAM ON 3AW IS ESTIMATED TO HAVE OVER A MILLION LISTENERS, AND BY TOM SOLYUK ON HIS EVENING PROGRAM ON 3DB. BOTH INTERVIEWERS CONCENTRATED ON THE CONCORDE'S EFFECT ON THE ENVIRONMENT. ON THE CHANNEL 9 TELEVISION NEWS PROGRAM MR BROWNE WAS ASKED ABOUT A PROPOSED NPM WHICH IS ISSUED BY THE FAA WOULD REQUIRED COSTLY MAJOR STRUCTURAL MODIFICATIONS TO QANTAS' 747S.

4. COMMENT: THE EXTENSIVE PROGRAM WHICH WE ORGANIZED FOR MR BROWNE ON HIS FIRST TRIP TO AUSTRALIA PROVIDED HIM WITH AN ANALYTICAL CROSS-SECTION OF CIVIL AVIATION PROBLEMS, POLICIES AND PERSONALITIES IN THIS COUNTRY. IN TURN HE BROUGHT HIS EXPERTISE TO RESPONSIBLE OFFICIALS WHO ARE INTERESTED IN EXPLORING NEW APPROACHES TO SOME OF THE CRITICAL PROBLEMS LONG PLAGUING THE INDUSTRY. THERE IS NO DOUBT THAT HE WAS WELL RECEIVED AND THAT HE ESTABLISHED HIS BONA FIDES AS AN OUTSTANDING FIGURE IN THE CIVIL AVIATION AND TRANSPORTATION FIELD.
BRAND

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